That Ship Has Sailed

Introduction

A gathering of angels appeared above my head
They sang to me this song of hope and this is what they said
They said come sail away come sail away
Come sail away with me
Come sail away come sail away
Come sail away with me
Come sail away come sail away
Come sail away with me
Come sail away come sail away
Come sail away with me

-Styx

Well hello there, happy colorers! It's that time again!

This time around we will be coloring old timey sailing ships traversing tumultuous seas.

So grab your colors and a towel and let's dive right in!

Copic Colors Used For The Class Page
(Refer to the color conversion chart for non Copic alternatives.)

|		
E0000	BV23	C1
E000	BG13	W0
E13		W1
E87	YR20	W3
	YR21	W4
B00		W5
B34	YG63	W8
B66	YG67	

Chapter One:
Coloring The Sky

For this class I'll be using that I call a hybrid style drawing. That is, it's not technically a full gray scale work, nor is it simply a line drawing. It is more accurately a hybrid between the two in that it contains some value cues and some line work, but isn't fully vested in either. The paper I'm using is a heavy 110lb. card stock.
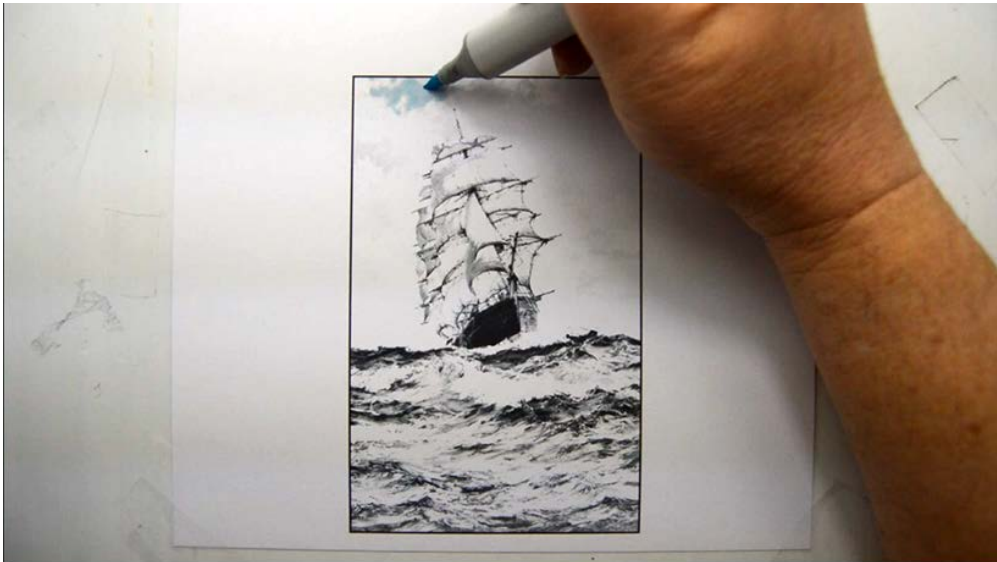
I begin by coloring the sky with B00. I can just see indications of where the cloud shapes are in the drawing and I am essentially coloring around those shapes.
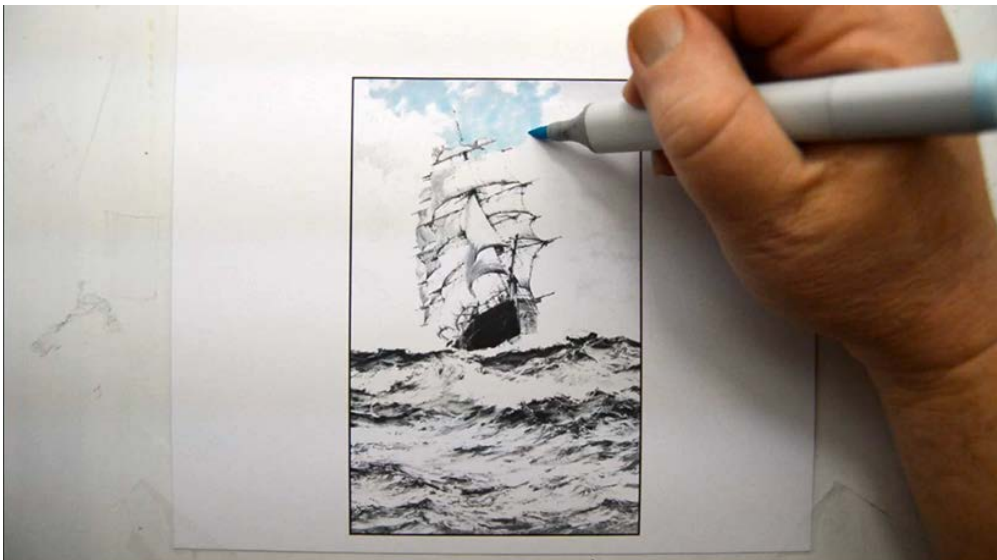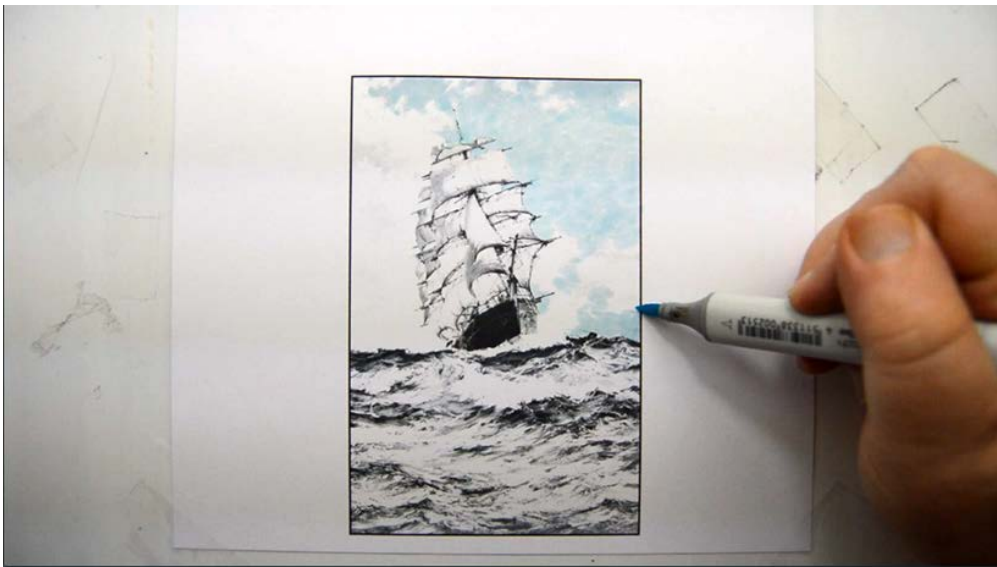

To color the sky I'm moving my marker in small, circular motion. (B00)
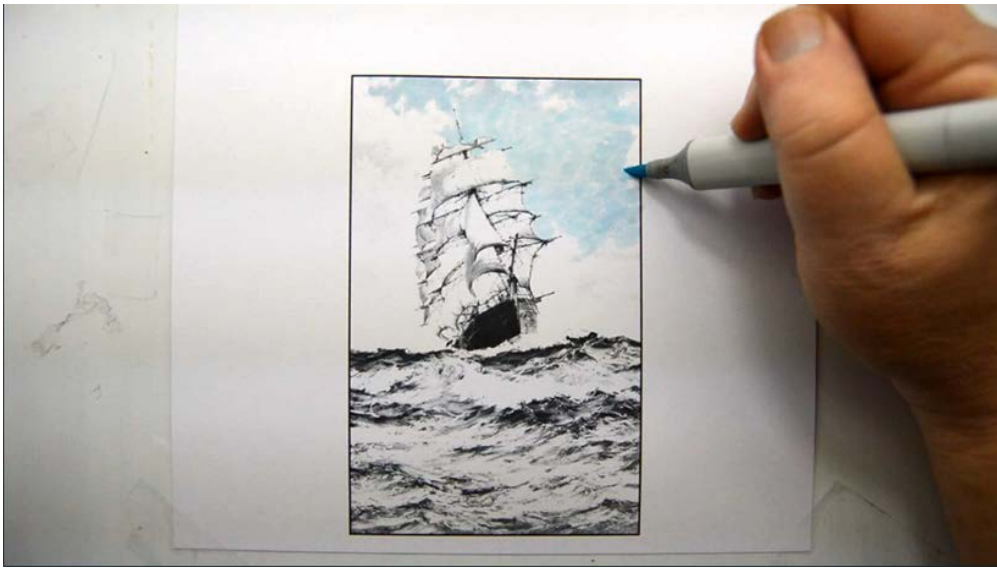
This circular coloring technique creates interesting value variations that, in this case, appear to be small distant clouds. (B00)
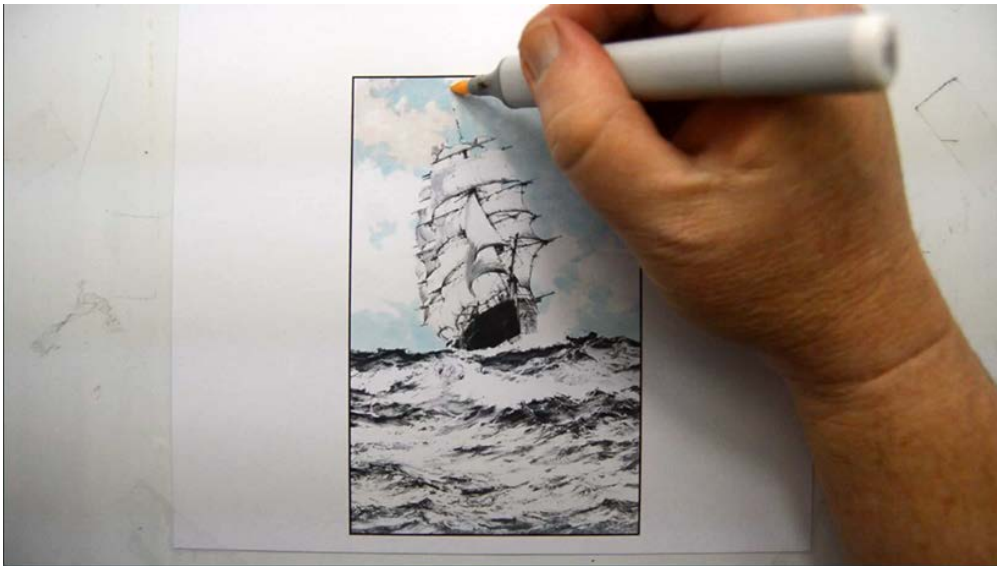
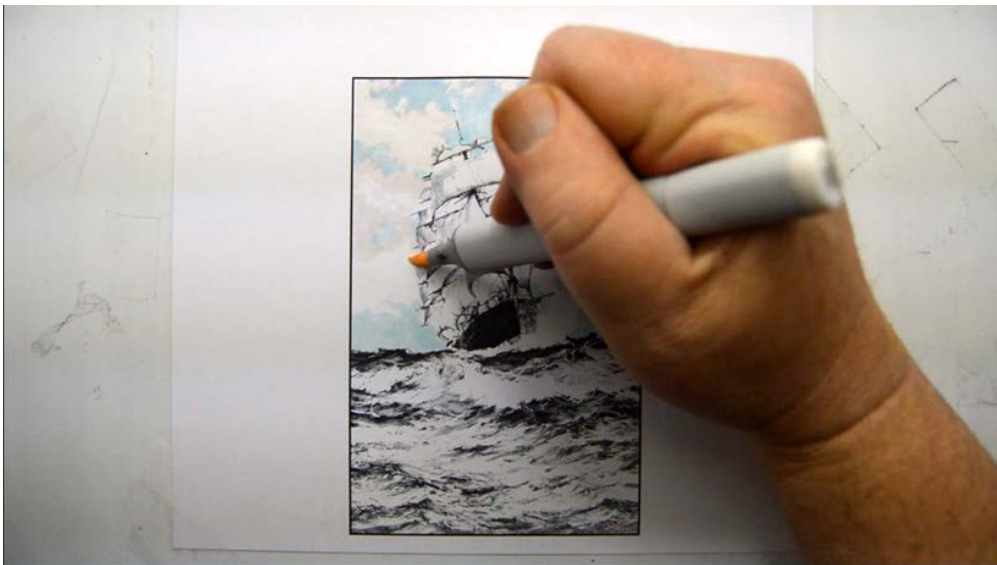Be sure to watch the video for a complete discussion of this technique!

B00

After the B00.

I add E0000 to the cloud shapes again using a circular motion.

I apply this color (E0000) to the top and bottom portions of the clouds, leaving the center of the cloud untouched.
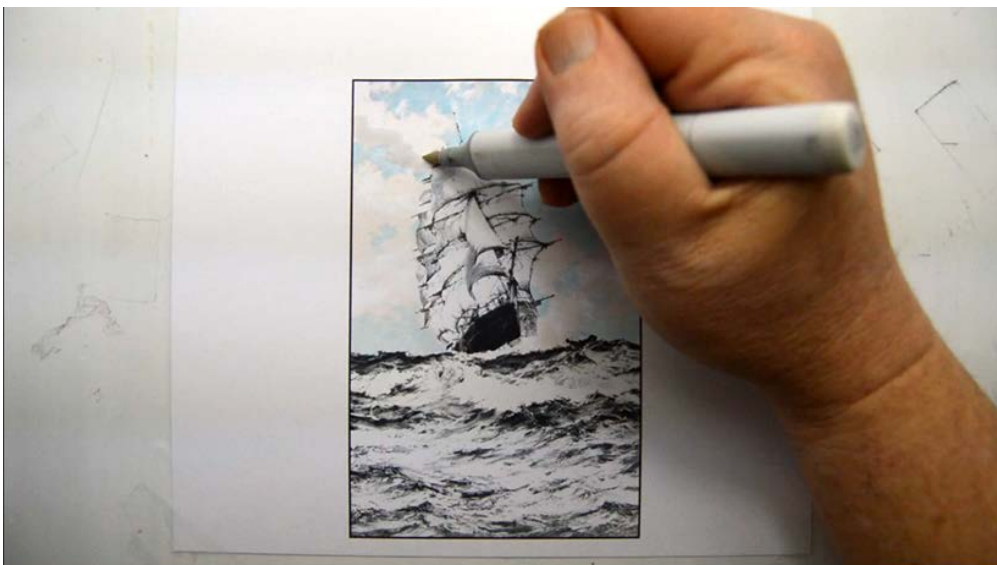

I carry the E0000 over the B00 in the small areas where the "sky" is exposed between cloud and sea.
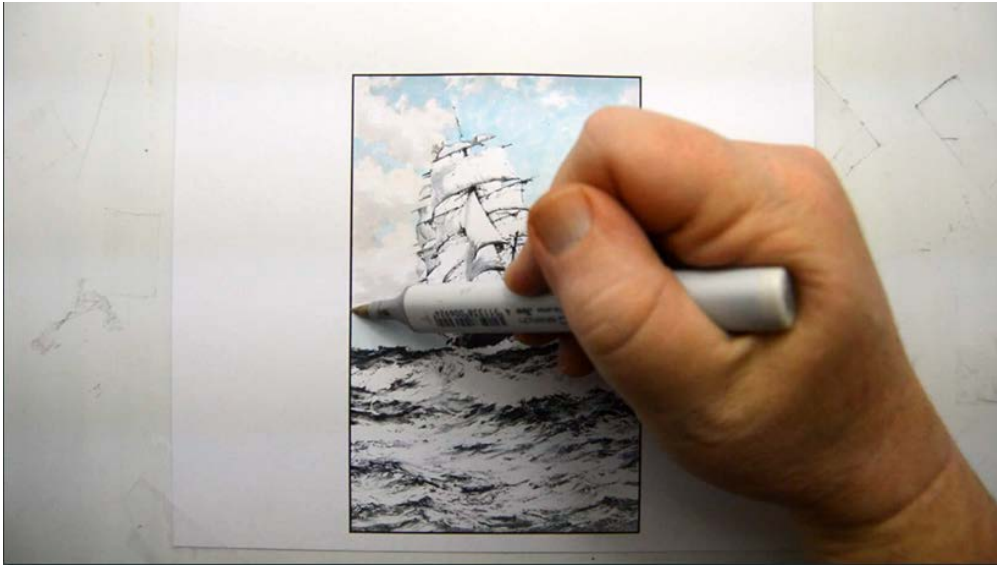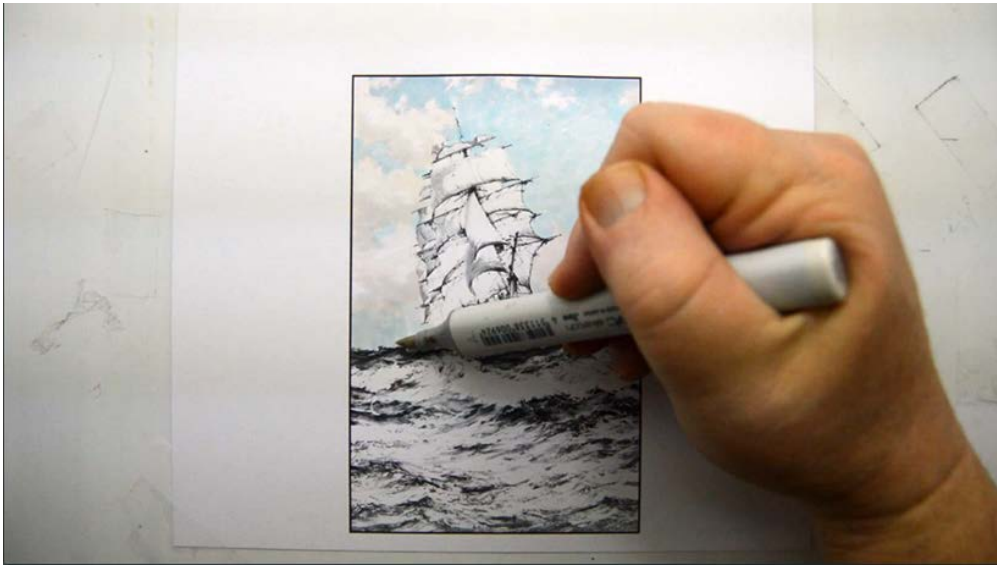
E0000

E0000

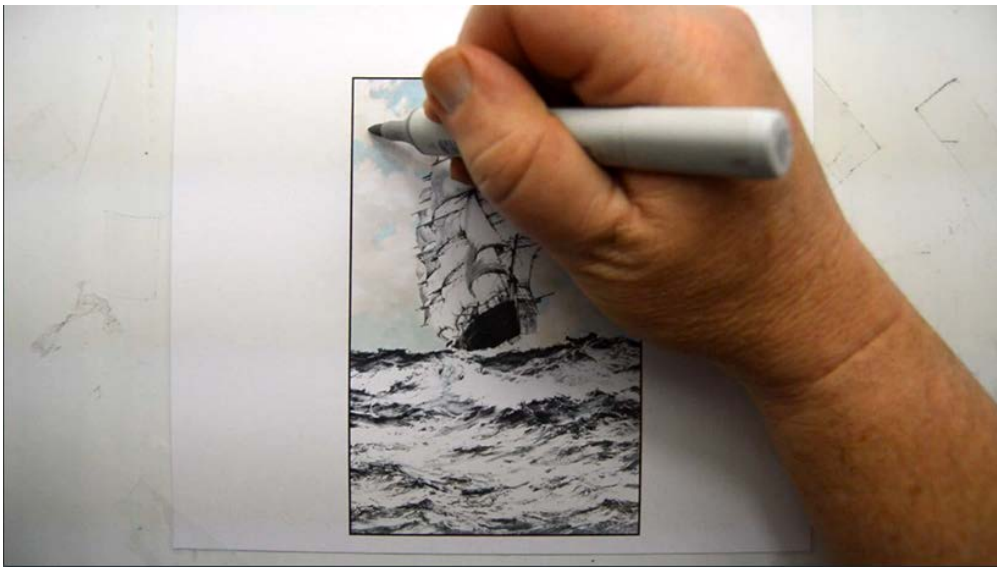I add W0 to the bottom portions of the clouds.

W0

Again, I color over that small patch of sky. (W0)

W0

Don't forget the sky ;)
(W0)

Finally, I add areas of C1...
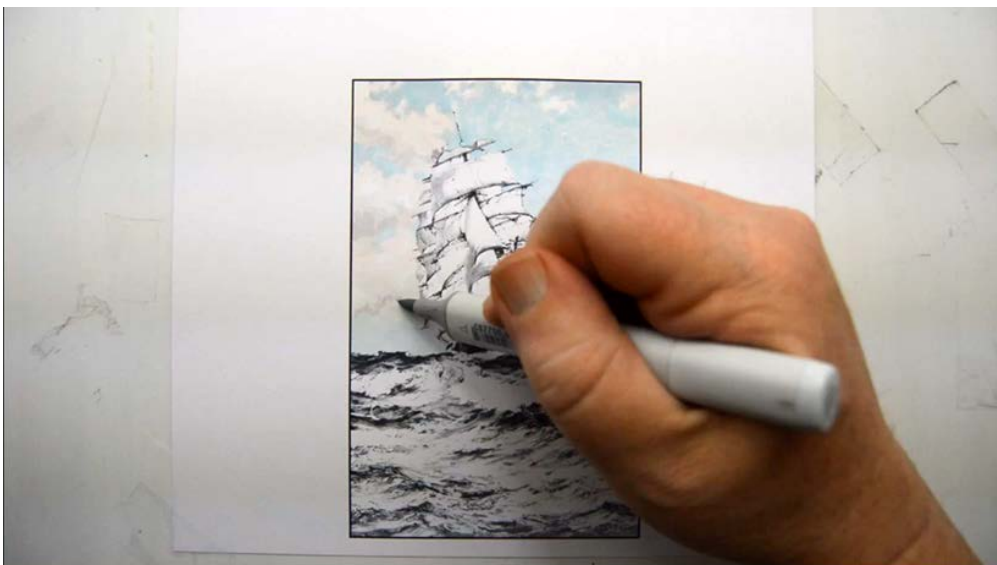
C1

C1

C1

The sky is now complete. :)

Chapter Two:
Coloring The Waves

With the sky complete we can now turn our attention to the waves.

I begin the coloring with YG63. I color the dark area directly below the ship with a solid layer of color, then color discreet areas of YG63 in the middle section.

I color the lower section of the waves more solidly than the middle section. (YG63)

After the YG63.

I add abstract areas of BV23 to the lower left corner.

After the BV23.

Next, I add areas of B34...

B34

Please note that the previous two colors and all subsequent colors are added abstractly here and there unless otherwise stated.

I add W5...

W5

W5

I then add B66...

B66

B66

Next, I color in some BG13...

BG13

BG13

I then add very dark accents with W8...

W8

W8

After the W8.

I add dark green accents with E87...

E87

I then "glaze" the entire lower portion of the waves with B66.

After the B66.

I color into the B66 glaze with BG13...

...then add more W8.

Essentially I'm going back and forth between colors, lightening some areas and darkening others until I get the look I'm shooting for.

Once I have the waves exactly the way I want, I add white gouache accents.

To begin, I'm using a very "wet" white gouache which has been heavily thinned with water.

This application of gouache nearly disappears when dry, but it's worth doing as it creates subtle effects that are difficult to achieve any other way.

I thin the next application of white gouache less than the previous applications and begin working on the cresting waves.

White gouache

White gouache

White gouache

Here I'm still using a slightly thinned white gouache, but I'm using a "stabbing" motion to apply it.

Please be sure to watch the video for a more complete discussion of this technique!

Slightly thinned white gouache

Slightly thinned white gouache

I now switch to unthinned, full strength white gouache.

White gouache (full strength)

White gouache (full strength)

White gouache (full strength)

White gouache (full strength)

After the white gouache.

With the white accents laid in I can now reassess the colors in the waves.

I decide to do a little more work :) You may or may not choose to do this!
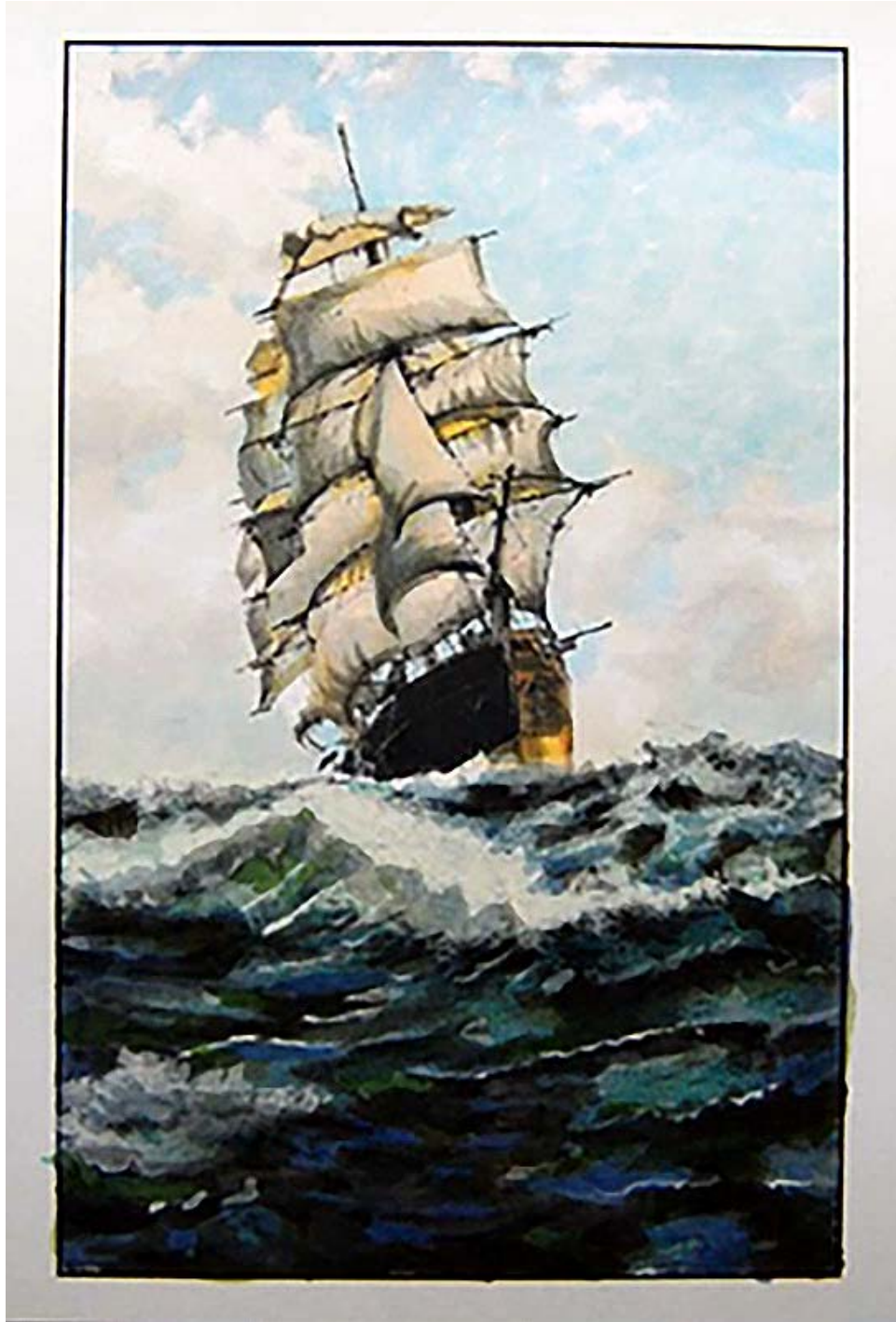
I add YG67...

W5...

B66...

...and B34.

Now the waves are complete!

Chapter Three:
Coloring The Ship

We can now turn our attention to the ship!

It is important to color the ship last in this image since the colors and values in the sky and sea play a large roll in helping us decide what colors we should use.
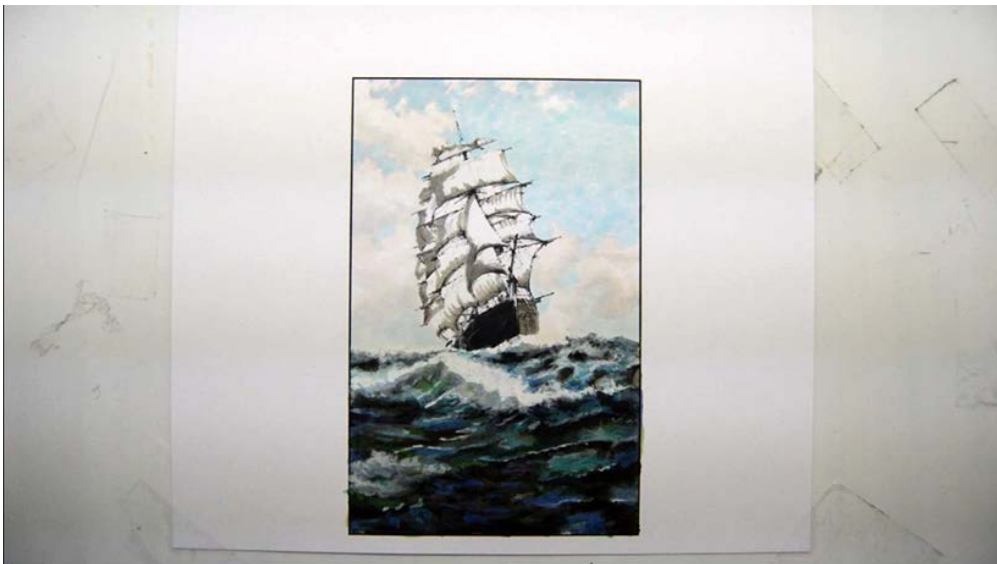
I begin by coloring the light side of the ship with W4.

Continuing with the W4 I add shadows to the sails...

W4...

After the W4.

I color over all the sails with E000.

It looks "orangey" here because it's wet. It will dry to a softer, less distinct color.

I add YR21 to the "reflected light" areas of the sails.

After the YR21.

I add W1...

After the W1.

I color the little "strip" at the bottom of the boat with YR20.
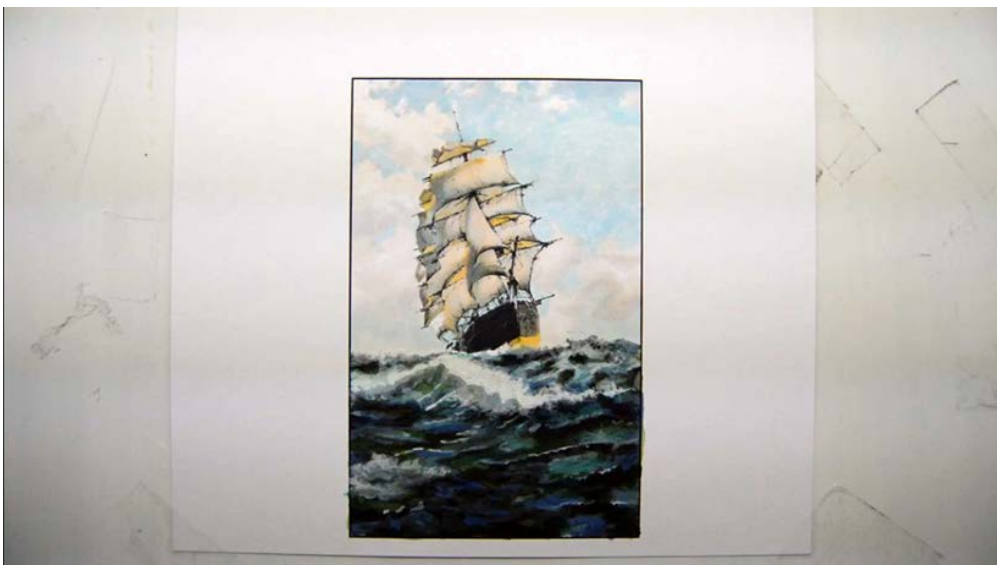

I color any areas between the sails that should be sky with B00.

I then add accents of B00 to the sails...

B00

See how that B00 on the sails makes the ship look like it's "in" the scene?

I add W3 to the bottom of the boat.

I then add W5 accents to the light side of the hull.

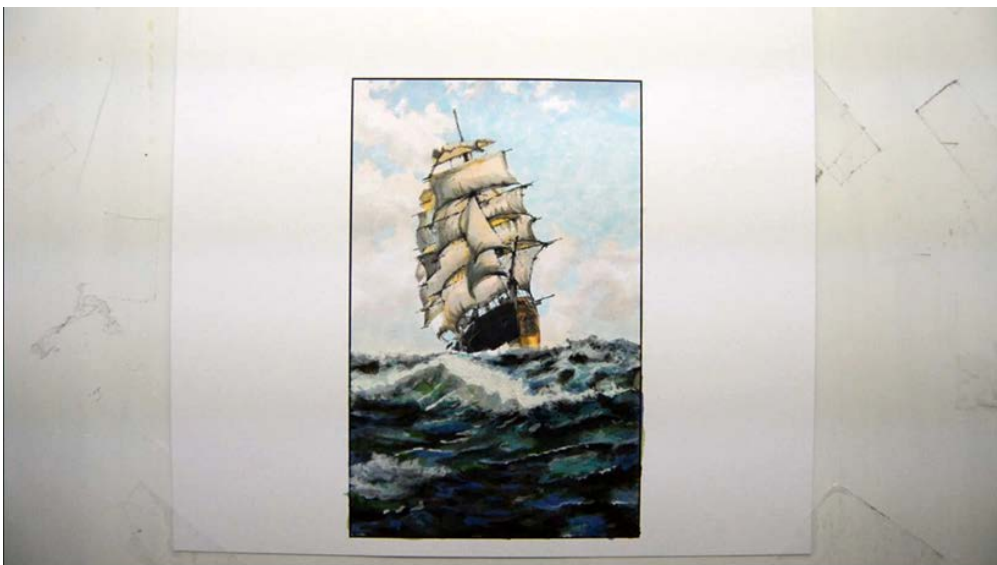Continuing with the W5, I add darker accents to the sails.

W5

W5

After the W5.

I add an E13 "glaze" to the light side of the hull.

I then soften the W5 in the sails with W3 to complete the image.

I've wanted to do a class on old sailing ships for a while now, and I think the subject was well worth consideration. Not only do we end up with a super nice image that looks more like a painting than a coloring page, but we also learned the easiest way to color an awesome realistic sky! Not bad for a few hours of work!

Until next time...
Christopher Kerry